

Finn's Ocean Explorer: Mastering Grid References

Learning objective: To accurately identify and use four-figure grid references to locate features on a map.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of mapping skills. Remember Finn the Dolphin's golden rule: 'Along the corridor and up the stairs!'

What is an Easting?

An Easting is the vertical line on a map that shows how far east you need to go from the origin point.

What is a Northing?

A Northing is the horizontal line on a map that shows how far north you need to go from the origin point.

Explain the phrase 'Along the corridor and up the stairs'.

This is a mnemonic to remember that you must find the Easting (along the bottom) before finding the Northing (up the side).

What is a four-figure grid reference?

A set of four numbers used to locate a specific square on a map, made by combining one Easting and one Northing.

Why do we use a map key?

A map key explains what the symbols, colours, and lines on a map represent so we can read the map accurately.

If a feature is in the bottom-left corner of the grid square 12, 45, why do we call it '1245'?

We combine the first two digits of the grid lines that form the bottom-left corner of the square.

How would you justify the need for grid lines on a map?

Grid lines are essential for navigation and communication, allowing people to describe a precise location to others without ambiguity.

Compare and contrast Eastings and Northings.

Both are lines used to create coordinates, Eastings run vertically and measure distance east, while Northings run horizontally and measure distance north.

What might happen if a map did not have a scale or grid lines?

It would be nearly impossible to accurately measure distances or describe exact locations, making navigation and exploration very difficult.

If you are at 34, 22 and move one square east, what is your new grid reference?

35, 22.

If you are at 34, 22 and move one square north, what is your new grid reference?

34, 23.

Explain why grid references are more useful than saying 'near the blue lake'.

Grid references provide a precise, objective location that remains the same regardless of who is reading the map, unlike descriptive language which can be vague.